
GENERAL PATIENT CARE GUIDELINES

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for the minimum standard of care for all patient contacts

AUTHORITY: Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4, Sections 1001, 100146 and 100147

DEFINITIONS:

Patient: Any individual with a complaint of pain, discomfort or physical ailment

Any individual regardless of complaint- with signs and/or symptoms of pain, discomfort, physical ailment or trauma. These signs/symptoms include, but are not limited to:

- a. Altered level of consciousness
- b. Sign and/or symptoms of skeletal or soft tissue injuries
- c. Altered ability to perceive illness or injury due to the influence of drug, alcohol or other mental impairment
- d. Evidence that the individual was subject to significant force

Patient Contact: Achieved when any on duty BLS or ALS field provider comes into the presence of a patient as defined above

BLS INTERVENTIONS

1. Obtain a thorough assessment of the following:
 - a. Airway, breathing and circulatory status
 - b. Subjective assessment of the patients' physical condition and environment
 - c. Objective assessment of the patients' physical condition and environment
 - d. Vital signs
 - e. Prior medical history, and current medications
 - f. Any known medication allergies or adverse reactions to medications, food or environmental agents
2. Initiate care using the following tools as clinically indicated or available
 - a. Axial spinal immobilization
 - b. Airway control with appropriate BLS airway adjunct
 - c. Oxygen
 - d. Assist the patient into a physical position that achieves the best medical benefit and maximum comfort
 - e. Automated External Defibrillator (AED)
 - f. Consider the benefits of early transport and/or intercept with ALS personnel if clinically indicated
3. Assemble necessary equipment for ALS procedures under direction of EMT-P
 - a. Cardiac monitoring
 - b. IV/IO
 - c. Endotracheal Intubation
 - d. Pulse Oximetry
4. Under EMT-P supervision, assemble pre-load medications as directed, excluding controlled substances.

ALS INTERVENTIONS:

1. Evaluation and continuation of all BLS care initiated
2. Augment BLS assessment with an advanced assessment including but not limited to the following:
 - a. Qualitative lung assessment
 - b. Cardiac monitor
 - c. Blood glucose monitoring
3. Augment BLS treatment with advanced treatments as indicated or available
4. Initiate airway control as needed with the appropriate ALS adjunct
5. Initiate vascular access as clinically indicated